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City of Salisbury to Receive Delegation of Councillors from Salisbury England

Mayor Kluttz Announces the Arrival of Official Sister City Contingent

Salisbury, NC_October 1, 2010 – Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council, has announced the anticipated arrival of a three-member contingent from Salisbury, England. The delegation includes two councillors from the official sister-city, including the Honorable Bobbi Chettleburgh, the Honorable Jeremy Nettle, and Nettle's wife Susan. Both Chettleburgh and Nettle have previously served in the capacity of Mayor and currently serve Salisbury, England as councillors. The party is scheduled to arrive at the Charlotte International Airport on Monday, October 4 and will be greeted by Mayor Kluttz and Salisbury Police Chief Rory Collins. Delegates will enjoy a nine-day visit with departure to England slated for the evening of October 12. Salisbury, England is the City of Salisbury's official namesake and the official sister-city.

The upcoming visit by the English delegation marks the eighth stop-over that the two cities have shared over the past eleven years. In 2000, Mayor Susan Kluttz attended a special millennium celebration held in Salisbury, England. Kluttz shares, "Invitations were issued to the mayors of Salisbury locations from all over the world. During my visit to Salisbury, England, I noted the many similarities that our two cities shared. I felt that by inviting the English council to our city, it would be a wonderful opportunity for our residents to learn first-hand of our city's namesake." Made possible with grant funding received from the Salisbury Community Foundation and the Robertson Family Foundation, a twenty-member delegation from Salisbury, England arrived in North Carolina during 2001. English delegates donned formal robes, chains, and maces and participated in numerous local ceremonies in conjunction with the Salisbury City Council. During the visit, the two cities signed an official sister-city resolution, establishing their formal relationship.

Other exchanges since that time have included a local delegation's visit to England during the 2002 Queen's Jubilee celebration, the St. John's Boy Scout Troop #443 exchange to England as official Council-appointed ambassadors during 2003, and a visit to Salisbury, North Carolina by the English Laverstock Scout Group in 2004. A fourteen-member delegation, including the Mayor of Salisbury, England and several councillors, returned to North Carolina for a six-

day visit during 2006. A local contingent returned to Salisbury, England in 2008 and presented the English council with a photo taken during the 2006 exchange.

The impending October visit will include several public events, including the Mayor's Spirit Luncheon and the Salisbury City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 5, at noon and 4 pm respectively. On Friday, October 8, the delegation will attend the Mambo Grill and Tapas Restaurant ribbon-cutting at 6 pm, followed by Downtown Salisbury's OctoberTour Friday Night Out. The group will continue to enjoy the excitement of the 35th Anniversary of Salisbury's OctoberTour throughout the weekend. The delegates, dressed in official attire, will attend church services at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 10, from 10:30 am to 12 noon.

Throughout their stay, delegates will enjoy leisure time, as well as several dinners, parties, and evening gatherings hosted by local citizens. Mayor Kluttz offers, "We are extremely excited and honored to welcome our English guests to Salisbury, North Carolina. I believe it is a tremendous opportunity for our citizens to experience the traditions and culture of Salisbury, England, our own city's namesake. We are most grateful to the many generous individuals in our community who have volunteered to lodge and provide meals for our guests. On behalf of the Salisbury City Council, I would like to thank all those who have worked diligently to organize and plan the agenda for this visit. I encourage all residents of Salisbury and Rowan County to meet their Sister-City Salisburians during the planned public events."

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